

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended): A process for the improvement of the water quality of biological maintenance systems, comprising adding to the maintenance system [individually or] in combination:

- a) for the lowering of the phosphate concentration, at least one easily or sparingly soluble  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{TiO}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{ZrO}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  salt of an organic carboxylic acid, or in admixture with an organic carboxylic acid;
  - b) for the lowering of the nitrate concentration or limitation of the nitrate increase, at least one water-soluble N-free, biologically decomposable organic compound;
  - c) for the increasing of the carbonate hardness or of the  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  concentration, at least one alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt of a carboxylic acid;
  - d) for the increasing of the total hardness or of the concentration of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  hydrogen carbonate, a mixture of at least one  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  salt of an organic carboxylic acid; and
- for the increasing of the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration, at least one biologically decomposable compound,

wherein the quality of the water is improved by the decomposition of the above combination with microorganisms in the water of said biological maintenance system.

20. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 19, comprising for the lowering of the phosphate concentration, adding an  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{TiO}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{ZrO}^{2+}$  and/or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  acetate, formate, tartrate and/or citrate.
21. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 20, wherein 1 to 100 mg/l aluminum and/or iron (III) citrate is added weekly or biweekly.
22. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 20, wherein 10 to 40 mg/l aluminum and/or iron(III) citrate is added weekly or biweekly.
23. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 19 comprising, for the lowering of the nitrate concentration or limiting of the nitrate increase, adding at least one of an alcohol, a sugar, or a carboxylic acid.
24. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 23, wherein at least one of glycerol, sorbitol or ethanol, a pentose, a hexose or saccharose or acetic, citric, tartaric or lactic acid are added.
25. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 23, wherein a mixture of citric or acetic acid and saccharose or a mixture of citric acid, tartaric acid and saccharose is added.

26. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 23, wherein 15 to 100 mg/l of the compound or the mixture is added every second day or three times weekly.
27. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 23, wherein 5 to 40 mg/l of the compound or the mixture is added every second day or three times weekly.
28. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 19 comprising for the increasing of the carbonate hardness or of the  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  concentration, adding at least one alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt of an aliphatic carboxylic acid.
29. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 28, wherein the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt is a salt of citric, acetic, lactic, tartaric, formic, propionic or malic acid.
30. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 19, comprising for the increasing of the total hardness or of the concentration of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  hydrogen carbonates, further adding  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  chloride and/or sulphate.
31. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 19, comprising for the increasing of the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration, adding daily or every two days at least one of a carboxylic acid, an alcohol or a sugar.
32. (Previously presented): The process of claim 31, wherein at least one of glycerol, sorbitol or ethanol, a pentose, a hexose or saccharose or acetic, citric or lactic acid are added.

33. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 31 wherein 1 to 20 mg/l everyday or 2 to 40 mg/l every two days, at least one of a carboxylic acid, alcohol or sugar is added.

34. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 19 further comprising adding an amount of oxygen or hydrogen peroxide equivalent to the O<sub>2</sub> requirement of the maintenance system.

35. (Currently amended): A kit comprising: a [single or] multiple component product for the improvement of the water quality of biological maintenance systems in dosage forms as an aqueous concentrate or a solid, and a package leaflet providing specifications for said dosages which single or multiple component comprises:

- 1) at least one easily or sparingly soluble Al<sup>3+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, TiO<sup>2+</sup>, ZrO<sup>2+</sup> or Ca<sup>2+</sup> salt of an organic carboxylic acid, or in admixture with an organic carboxylic acid;
- 2) at least one water-soluble, N-free biologically decomposable organic compound;
- 3) at least one alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt of an organic carboxylic acid; and
- 4) a mixture of at least one Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> salt of an organic carboxylic acid.

36. (Currently amended): A[single or] multiple component product for the improvement of the water quality of biological maintenance systems comprising
- 1) at least one easily or sparingly soluble Al<sup>3+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, TiO<sup>2+</sup>, ZrO<sup>2+</sup> or Ca<sup>2+</sup> salt of an organic carboxylic acid, or in admixture with an organic carboxylic acid;
  - 2) at least one water-soluble, N-free biologically decomposable organic compound;
  - 3) at least one alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt of an organic carboxylic acid; and
  - 4) a mixture of at least one Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> salt of an organic carboxylic acid.